

The Greenest Region Compact

OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPACT

EDITH MAKRA, METROPOLITAN MAYORS CAUCUS



The Greenest Region Compact (GRC)

Strong participation

- 96 signatories - Municipalities and COGs

Pledges adopted 2007 – 2008

- Little follow up
- Markets and rules changed

Sustainability planning evolved

Update Warranted

GRC Update Project - Goal

To align environmental issues, resources, and actions at the local, regional and national levels to guide municipalities to achieve greater environmental sustainability.

GRC Update Project - Objective

To propose a framework for a new GRC that is

- modeled on existing municipal sustainability plans;*
- incorporates successful programs, policies, and other indicators of environmental achievement by municipalities;*
- and aligns with goals and strategies of regional, national and global significance.*

GRC Update Project

Team – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus & CB&I, consulting firm

Funding - Searle Funds of the Chicago Community Trust

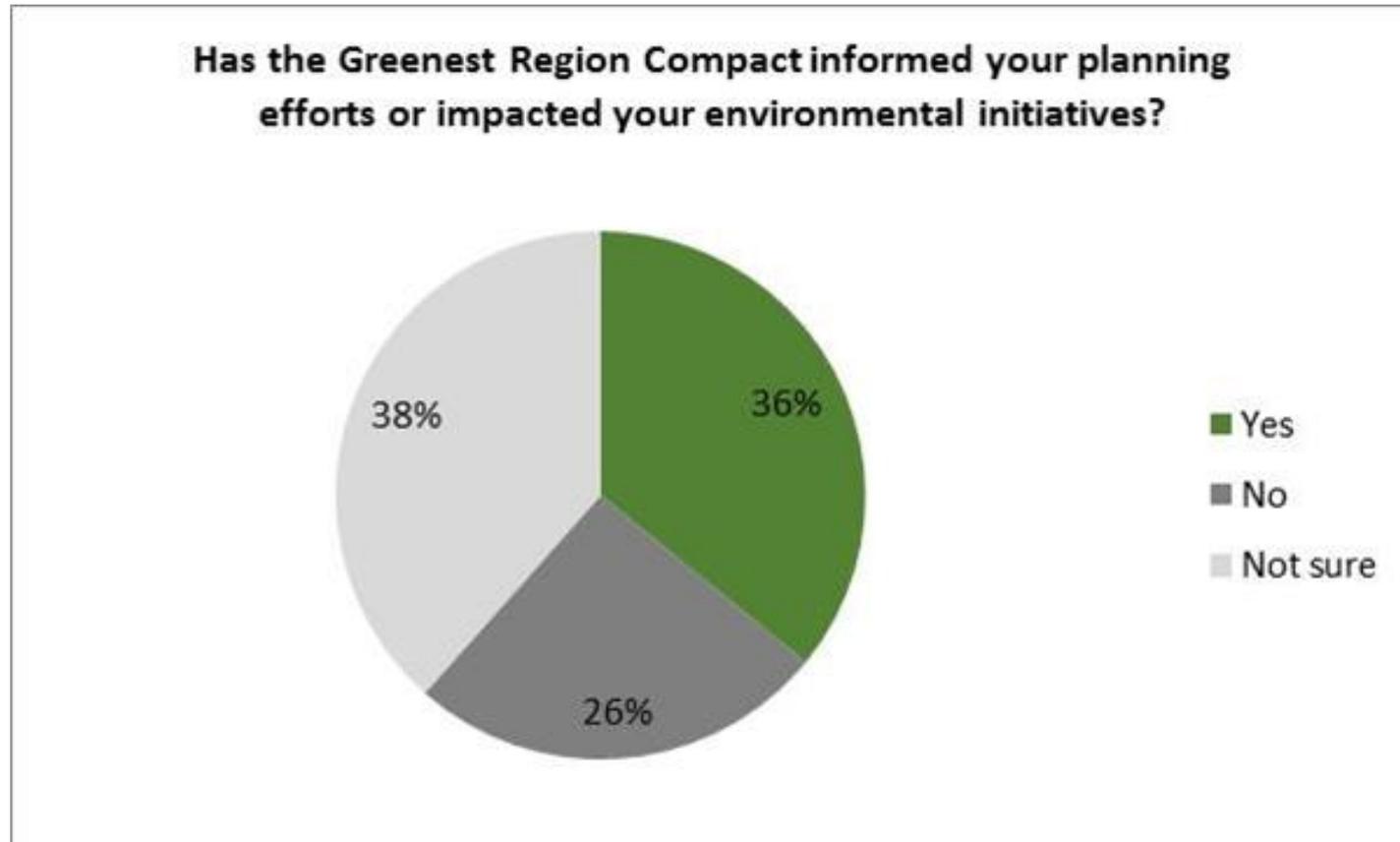
Cooperation with CMAP

Advisors – Environment Committee, municipal sustainability directors, COGs, state and federal agencies, many NGO's

Methodology

1. Survey of GRC adopters
2. Achievements Inventory
3. Sustainability Plan Review
4. Draft Consensus Framework

GRC Adopters Survey



GRC Pledge and Survey Results

Air

Diesel Retrofits

Transit Education

Bus Shelters and Bike Racks

Energy

CFL Light bulbs

LED Traffic Signals

Municipal Green Power Purchase

Land

Tree Planting Programs

Waste

E-Waste Recycling

Residential Curbside Recycling

Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling

Paint Recycling

Water

Residential water conservation

Residential Rain Barrel Program

Residential Sprinkler Regulations

Stormwater Best Management Practices

Achievement Inventory

Achievement Inventory - Methodology

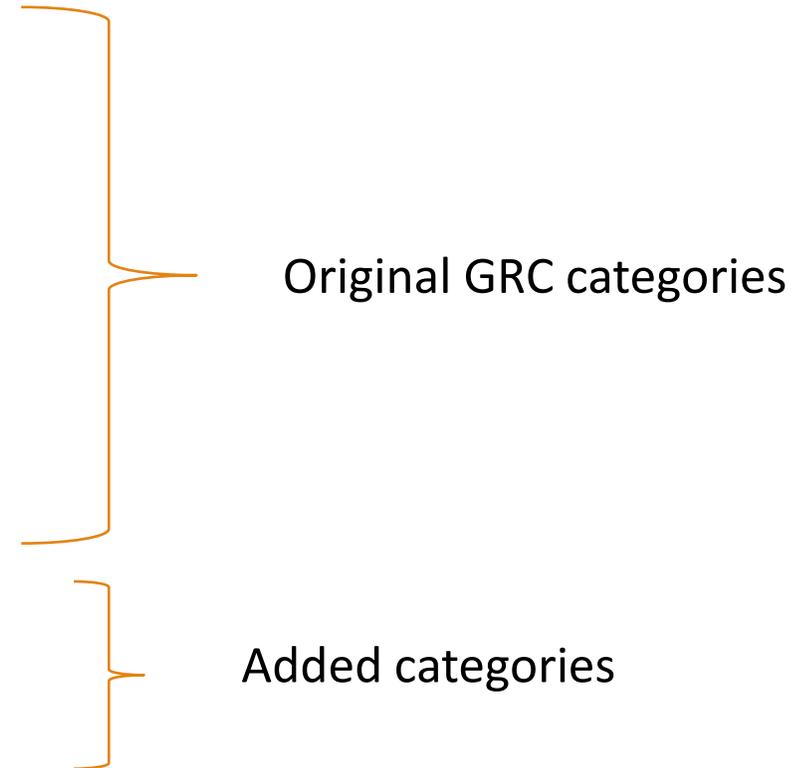
Purpose – observe what is already being done

- Tally achievements by municipality
- Must invest effort for achievement to be counted
- Objective, 3rd party lists only
- Not all achievements of interest are tracked
- 95 achievements were included

Award
Certification
Grant
Membership
Policy
Program

Achievement Inventory

GRC+2 Category
Air
Water
Land
Waste
Energy
Climate Change
Sustainability Stewardship

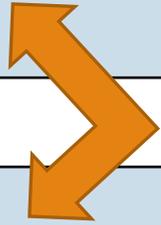


Top 20 Achievements

Designation	Sum of Achievements	GRC Category
Access to Parks/Open Space	228	Land
Curbside Recycling Program	193	Waste
PY1-PY6 DCEO Grants	167	Energy
ICECF Energy Efficiency	152	Energy
Tree City USA	122	Land
Water Metering	119	Water
Emerald Ash Borer Grant	114	Land
DNR Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD)/ Land & Water Conservation Fundd (LWCF)	104	Land
Farmer's Market	103	Land
Solid Waste Agency	99	Waste
Greenest Region Compact	97	Sustainability Stewardship
Water cosevation education	96	Water
CFL bulbs giveaway program	93	Energy
EECBG program allocations	80	Energy
EV (public) charging station	74	Energy
RTA Community Planning	66	Land
Environmental-focused citizen commission	65	Sustainability Stewardship
Electricity Aggregation w/Renewables	63	Energy
ICECF renewables	61	Energy
Municipal LEED certified buildings	53	Sustainability Stewardship
Total	2149	

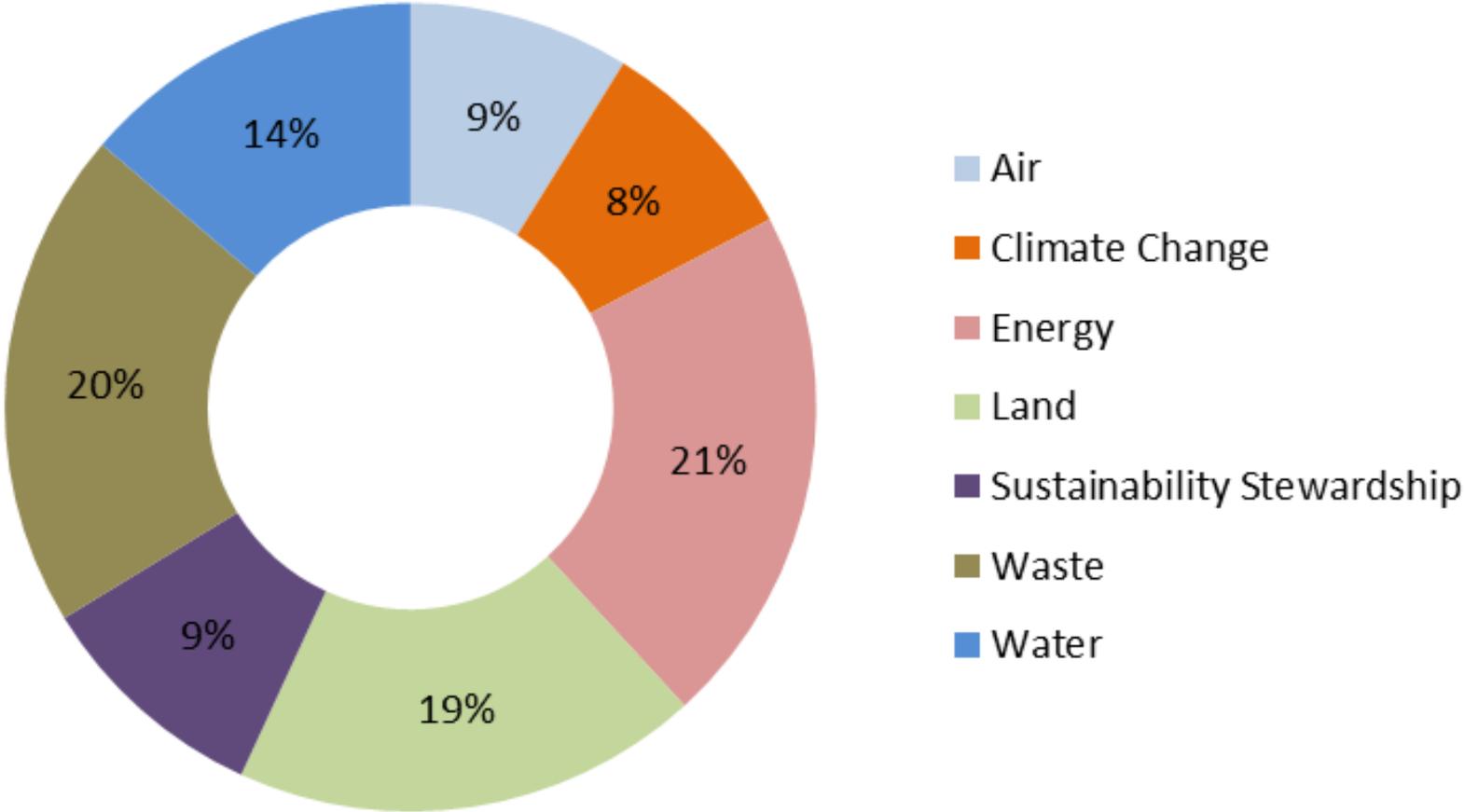
Results – Achievements by GRC+2 Category

GRC+2 Category	Sum of Achievements
Air	336
Water	455
Land	1045
Waste	407
Energy	745
Climate Change	130
Sustainability Stewardship	408
Total	3526



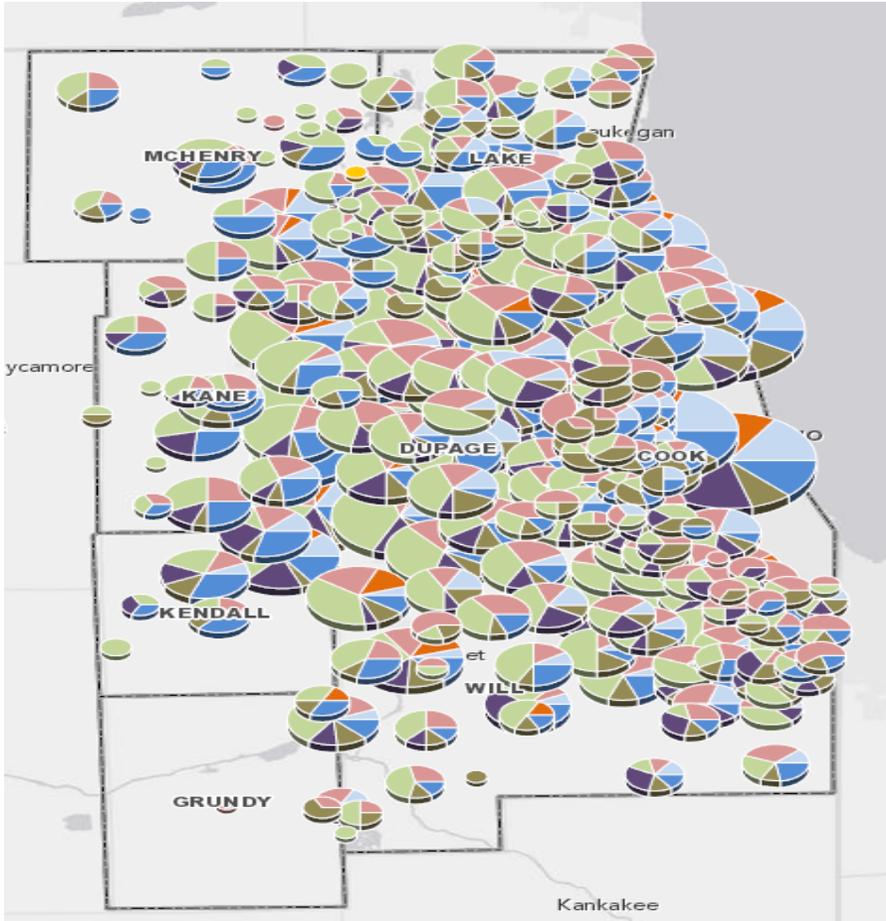
Community Achievements by Category

(normalized)



Results – Distribution of Achievements

<https://gim2.shawgrp.com/MMC>
[SA/](#)

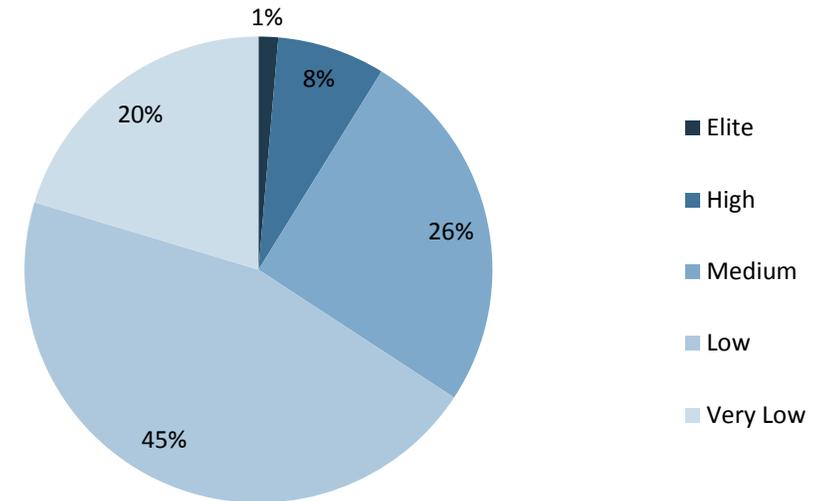


Results – Achievement by Community

Key	Range of Achievements per Community	Number of Municipalities	Average Achievements
Elite	40-60	4	50.3
High	25-39	22	30.2
Medium	15-24	75	12.3
Low	5-14	134	8.5
Very Low	0-4	60	2.4

= 71%

Tier Distribution

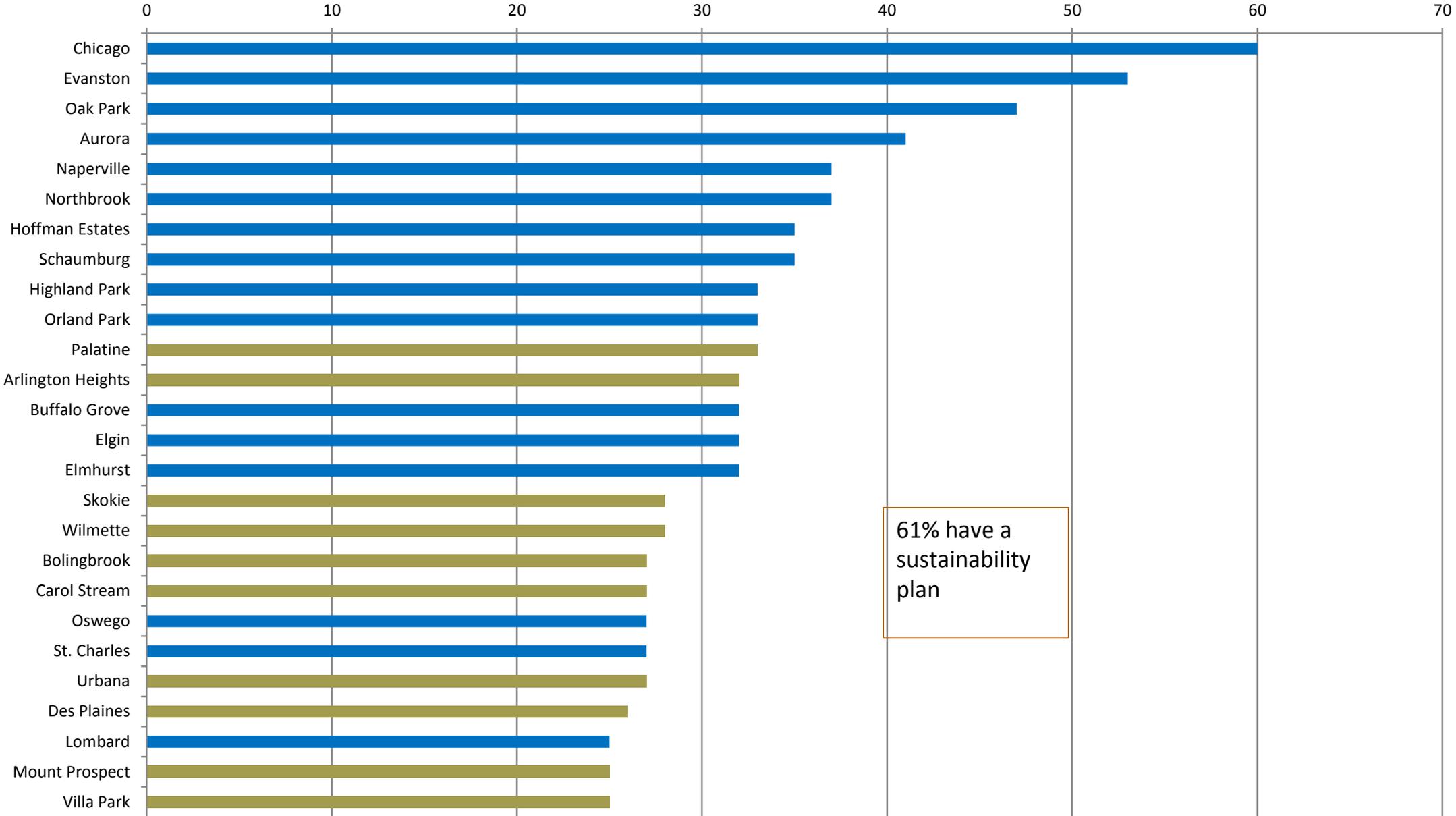


Top 26 Achieving Municipalities

has sustainability plan



Sum of Achievements - Top 26 Cities



61% have a sustainability plan

Sustainability Plan Review

Sustainability Plan Review

Purpose – Understand what is already planned

1 – To analyze plans, measure interest in common goals

2 – To synthesize diverse goals into a consensus plan for the region

Methodology

29 Municipal plans representing 32 municipalities and one county

- 44 communities with sustainability plans, 11 were excluded from analysis

7 Regional and national plans

Sustainability Plans

1. Disassembled into individual goals/ themes/categories

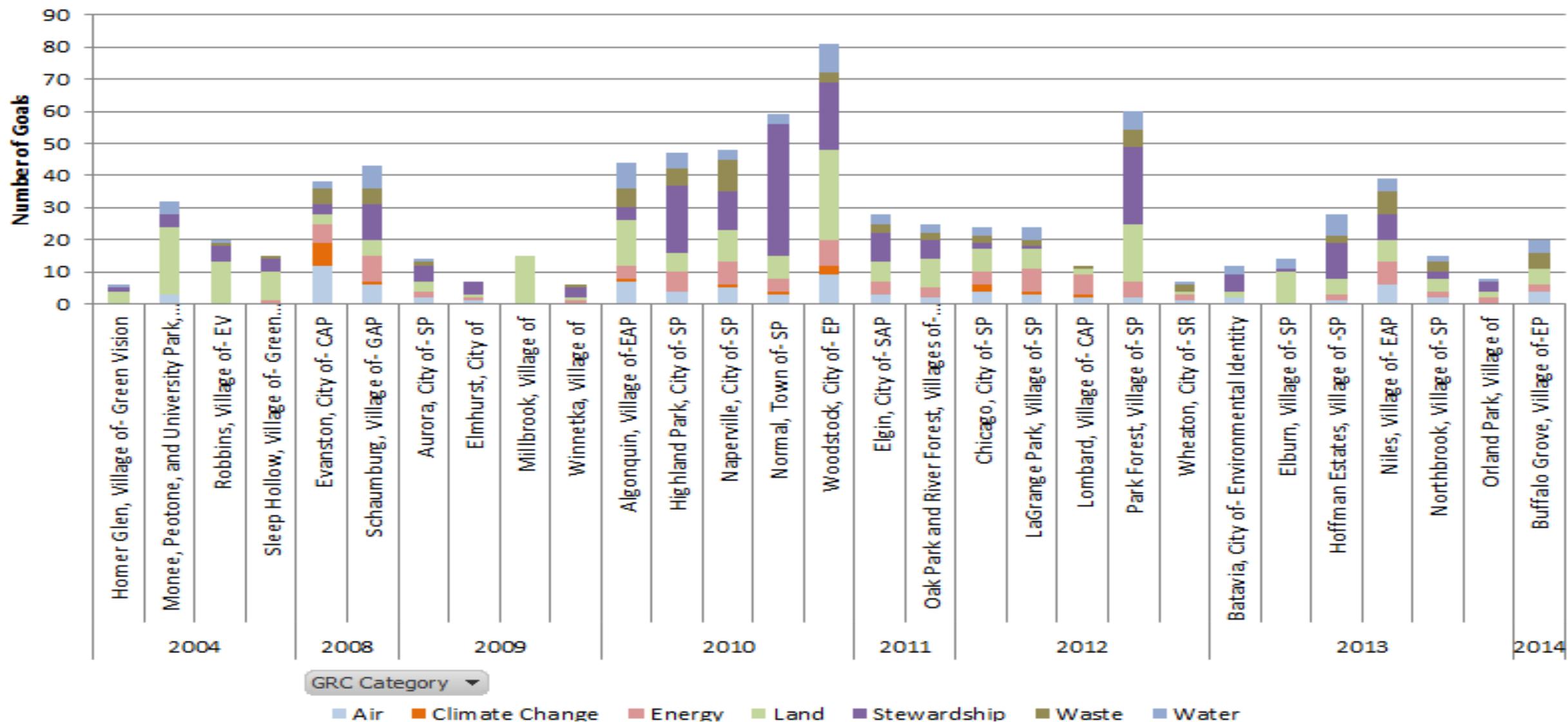
- 791 municipal goals
- 200 regional/ national/ international goals

2. Sorted into common terms of GRC+2 Category for analysis

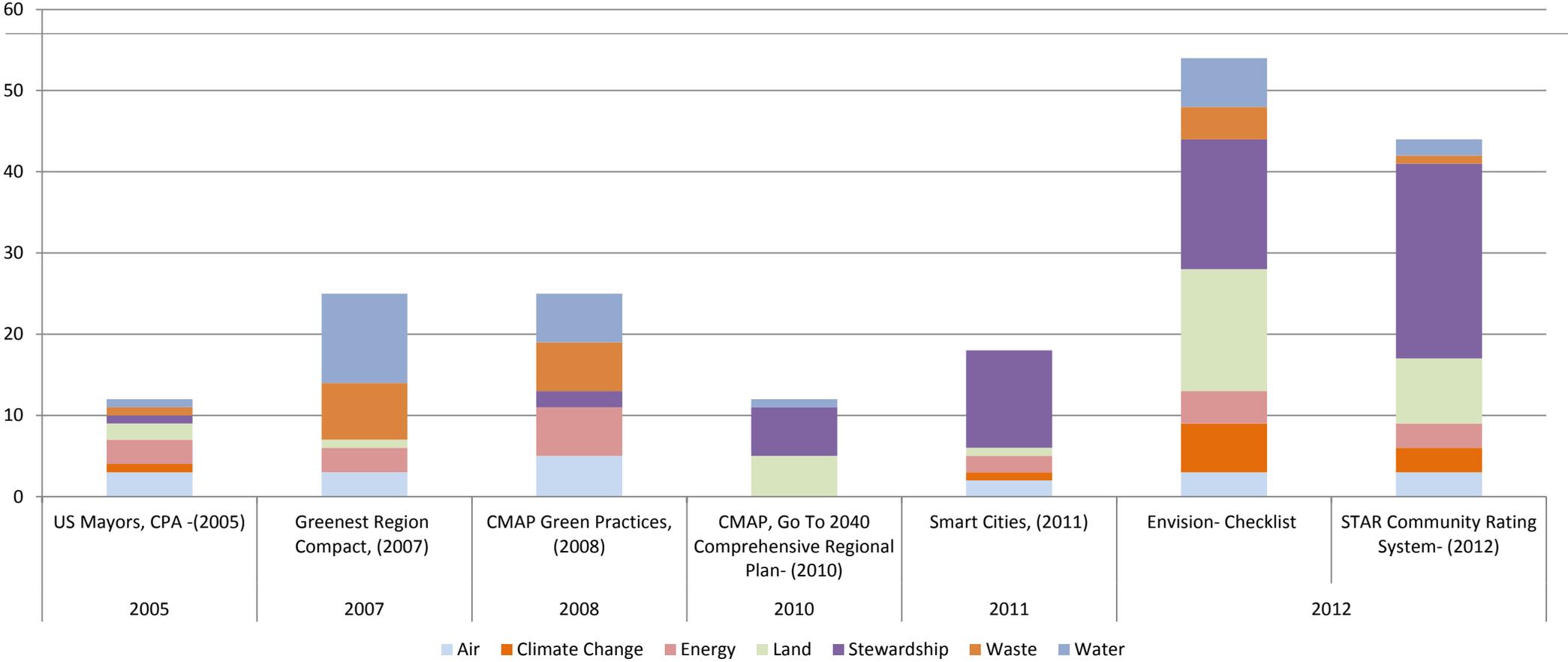
- e.g. Outcomes on air quality - all these municipal categories sorted into “Air”

Transportation and Mobility, Climate, Quality of Life, Renewable Energy Resources, Transportation and Land Use, Air, Air Strategies

Complete Review of Municipal Sustainability Goals by GRC +2 Category



Results– State and Regional Plan Review



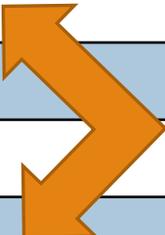
Sustainability Plan Review

Building Framework for GRC2

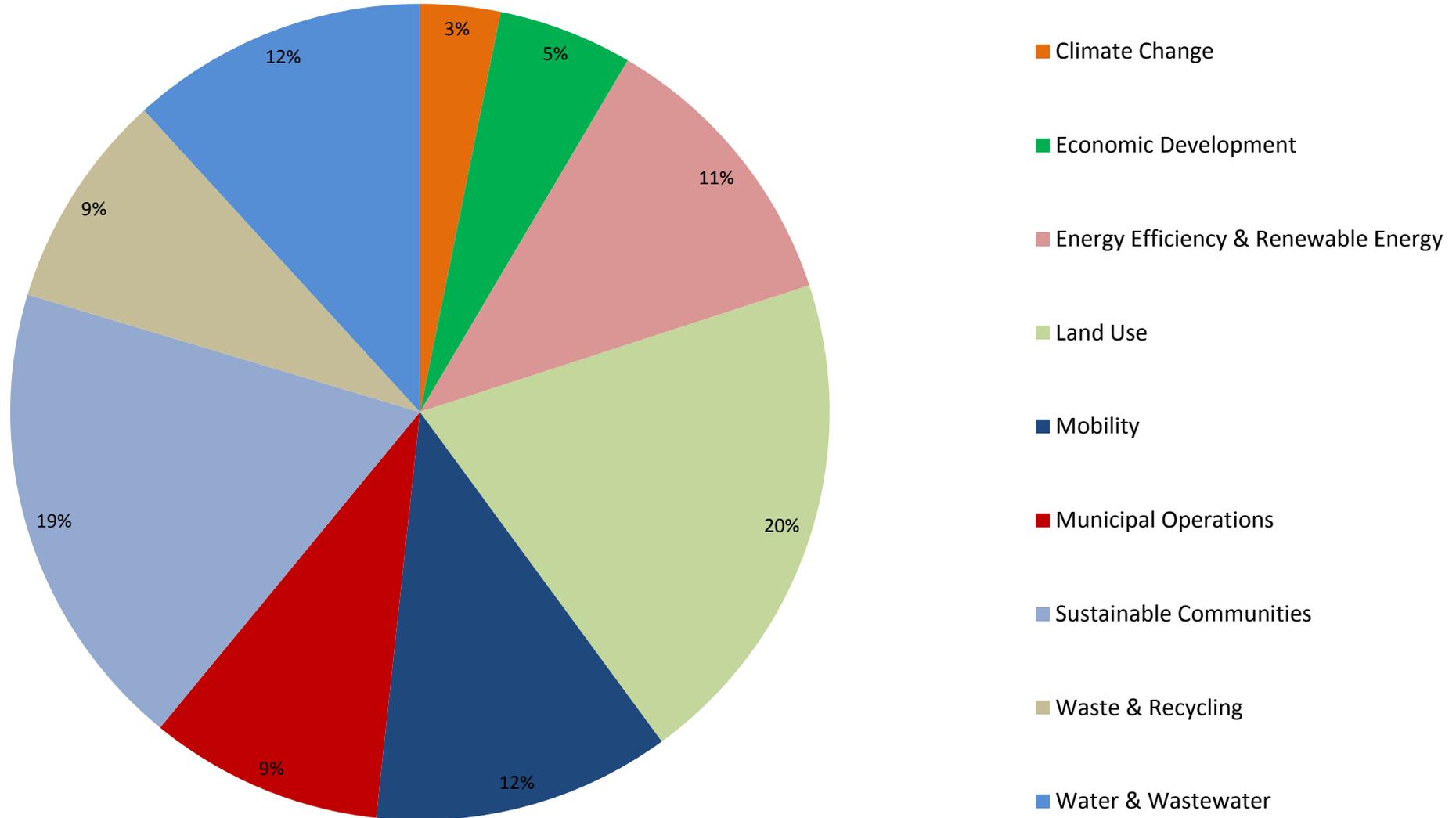
- All 791 sustainability goals categorized organically
- Allowed 'consensus' goal categories to emerge
- Discarded interim GRC+2 Categories

Results – Synthesis of All Goals into GRC2

Category	Sum of Goals
Climate Change	25
Economic Development	42
Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy	91
Land Use	158
Mobility	93
Municipal Operations	73
Sustainable Communities	148
Waste & Recycling	68
Water & Wastewater	93
Total Goals Expressed in Plans	791



Distribution of Municipal Sustainability Goals



Synthesis – GRC2 Framework Details

Climate Change	Count of Goals
Adaptation	1
Air quality	3
Education & Outreach	2
GHG Emissions	13
Stewardship	6
Total	25

Economic Development	Count of Goals
Green Economy	21
Innovation	4
Policy	6
Stewardship	2
Workforce Development	9
Total	42

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy	Count of Goals
Building Retrofits	32
Education & Outreach	16
Energy Management	7
Policy	6
Renewable Energy Generation	18
Renewable energy procurement	5
Stewardship	7
Total	91

Municipal Operations	Count of Goals
Data Management	7
Education & Outreach	2
Environmentally preferable procurement	14
Municipal fleet	18
Paperless Office	4
Policy	3
Stewardship	25
Total	73

Mobility	Count of Goals
Alternative Transportation	21
Anti-Idling Policy	3
Bike & Pedestrian	9
Complete Streets	3
Education & Outreach	10
Employee commute	4
Multi-modal	4
Policy	1
Public Transit	18
Stewardship	8
Transportation Infrastructure	12
Total	93

Land Use	Count of Goals
Education & Outreach	12
Land Preservation	44
Landscaping	12
Parks & Open Space	24
Policy	10
Smart Growth & Transit-Oriented Development	31
Stewardship	5
Trees & Landscaping	20
Total	158

Sustainable Communities	Count of Goals
Arts and Culture	11
Education & Outreach	39
Health & Safety	14
Local Food	22
Policy	12
Stewardship	50
Total	148

Waste & Recycling	Count of Goals
C&D Recycling	5
Composting	4
Education & Outreach	11
E-Waste	3
Policy	6
Recycling program	18
Stewardship	7
Waste Reduction	14
Total	68

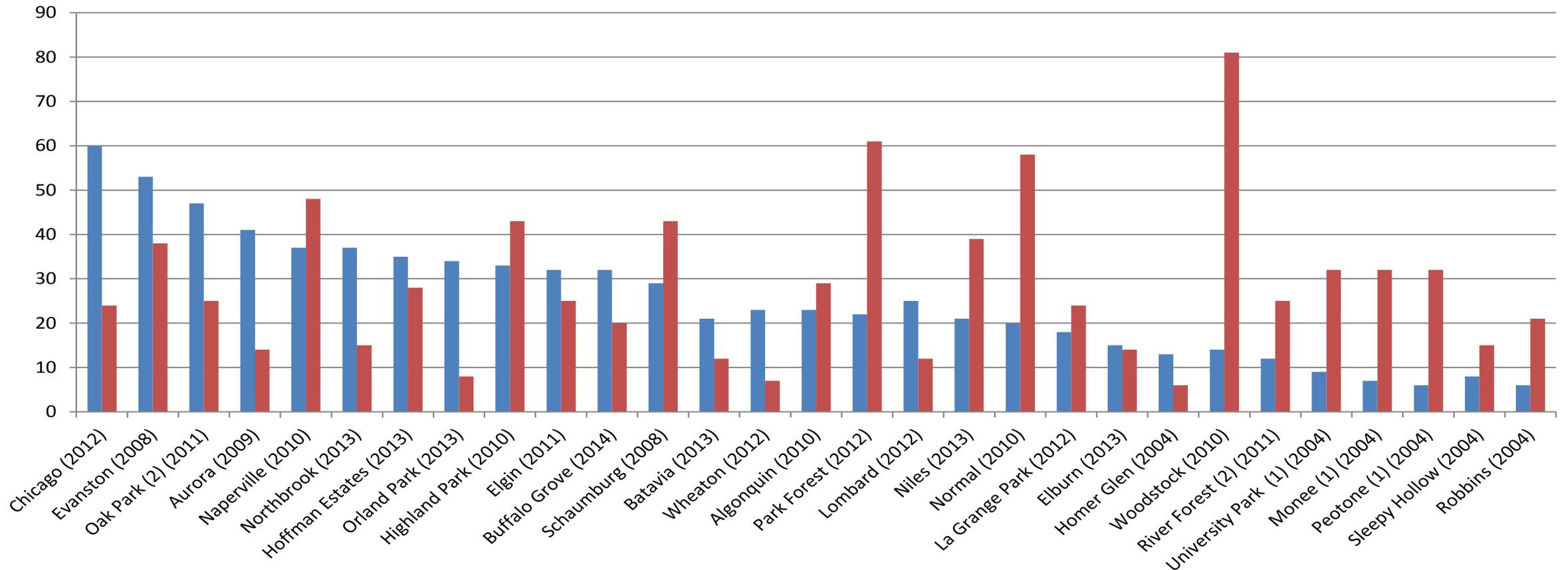
Water & Wastewater	Count of Goals
Education & Outreach	16
Infrastructure improvements	9
Policy	7
Stewardship	5
Stormwater Management & Green Infrastructure	26
Water Conservation	20
Water Quality	10
Total	93

Conclusions

Outcomes of Sustainability Planning

Achievements/plans comparison

■ Achieved ■ Planned



Conclusions

A new GRC could be influential

- for communities
- for regional & higher goals

Could guide funding, policies, programs

Conclusions

- Sustainability Planning Matters
- GRC should be inclusive
- Could serve as sustainability plan for 71% of achievers in the middle

Next Steps

Continuing support from Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust

1. Outreach & engagement
2. Validate relevance of framework
3. Establish specific goals integrated with existing programs
4. Establish Indicators
5. Launch new Greenest Region Compact

Input Welcome!

View interactive Achievement map

<https://gim2.shawgrp.com/MMCSA/>

Greenest Region Compact:
Opportunities and Impact

To be posted by 11/30/14

<http://mayorscaucus.org>

Edith Makra

Director of Environmental Initiatives

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

312-201-4506

emakra@mayorscaucus.org